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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,883	01/28/2002	Yong-Kyu Jang	6192.0222.AA	2057
7590	10/05/2004		EXAMINER	
McGuireWoods Suite 1800 1750 Tysons Boulevard McLean, VA 22102-4215				CHUNG, DAVID Y
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/055,883	JANG, YONG-KYU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David Y. Chung	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-16 and 18-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 10-14 and 30-39 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,15,16 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4-9,18-23 and 25-29 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 8, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. 6,406,949).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As to claims 1 and 15, Kim discloses a conventional TFT-LCD in figure 1. A peripheral region comprising gate pad 21 (left side of figure 1) and a pixel region (right side of figure 1) comprising pixel electrode 13 are shown. The gate electrode 2 is part of the TFT connected to the pixel for applying an electrical signal to the pixel. Because the gate pad is integrally formed with the gate electrode, the gate pad is also connected to the pixel via the gate electrode. See column 1, lines 35-37. An insulation layer comprising gate insulator 4 and passivation layer 10 is formed in the pixel region and peripheral region. Note the opening region formed in the passivation layer 10 of the peripheral region. This opening has a periphery greater than that of the gate pad such that the gate pad is formed completely within this opening.

As to claims 2 and 16, the gate insulator 4 formed within the above mentioned opening region is thinner than the combined insulation layer (gate insulator and passivation layer) formed outside of the opening region.

As to claim 24, the passivation layer 10 can be interpreted as the first insulation layer and the gate insulator can be interpreted as the second insulation layer. Figure

2G shows the passivation layer formed in the pixel and peripheral regions being selectively removed in the opening region with a contact hole being formed in the pixel region. Figure 2F shows an opening in the gate insulator exposing the gate pad in the opening region.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-14 and 30-39 allowed.

Claims 4-14, 18-23 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

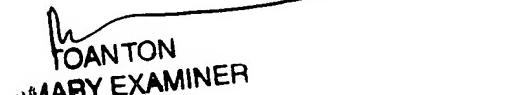
Applicant's arguments, see pages 14 and 15, filed June 8, 2004, with respect to claims 30 and 33 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 30 and 33 has been withdrawn.

Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 24 as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. 6,406,949) because figure 1 does in fact disclose a gate pad and a thin film transistor as a switching device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Chung whose telephone number is (571) 272-2288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

David Chung
GAU 2871
09/30/04


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER